

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-11 DHA-02 ACDA-05 OMB-01

SAM-01 NEA-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /089 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2861

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADLIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

RUTAD

/AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE 3901

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

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CAPE TOWN FOR AMEMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XA, OAU, AO, NI, US

SUBJECT: FMG'S POST-SUMMIT STATEMENT

REF: A. LAGOS 553 B. STATE 8555

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. CLAIMING OAU MEETING TO HAVE BEEN SUCCESS, NIGERIAN HEAD OF STATE GENERAL MURTALA MUHAMMED YESTERDAY ISSUED THE STATEMENT HE PROMISED PRESS ON HIS RETURN FROM ADLIS THE DAY BEFORE. (REFTEL A). STATEMENT WAS VERY MODERATE IN TONE AND PUT BEST FACE POSSIBLE ON OAU SUMMIT.

2. MUHAMMED SAID IT WAS "NAIVE" TO DESCRIBE THE MEETING AS A FAILURE AS DETRACTORS OF AFRICA WOULD WANT THE WORLD TO BELIEVE. ENEMIES HAD CLAIMED THE ANGOLAN ISSUE WOULD DESTROY

THE OAU, BUT IT HAD NOT. THE NIGERIAN LEADER SAID

THE SUCCESS OF THE MEETING MUST BE SEEN FROM THE VIEWPOINT THAT THE MEMBER STATES OF THE OAU EXCHANGED VIEWS, EVEN IF SOMETIMES VIOLENTLY, AND STILL LEFT THE CONFERENCE SMILING AND SHAKING HANDS.

3. THE HEAD OF THE MFG ADMITTED SOME AFRICANS WHO ATTENDED THE MEETING EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION, BUT HE POINTED OUT THAT ANGOLA WAS THE FIRST CASE OF ITS KIND IN CONTEMPORARY AFRICA. HE SAID ONE SIDE AT THE OAU HAD VIEWED THE SITUATION AS A FIGHT BETWEEN ANGOLA AND SOUTH AFRICA AND HAD RECOGNIZED THE MPLA. THE OTHER SIDE, HE SAID, VIEWED THE SITUATION AS A PURELY INTERNAL AFFAIR OF ANGOLAN PEOPLE ("POSSIBLY BECAUSE THEY DO NOT HAVE ALL THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AS TO THE SITUATION") AND CALLED FOR A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY. MUHAMMED SAID NOBODY COULD BEGRUDGE EITHER VIEW, BUT ADDED CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT THE ONLY DISAPPOINTING ASPECT WAS "... THAT IT IS TAKING THOSE AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHO HOLD THE LATTER VIEW SUCH A LONG TIME AND MAY TAKE EVEN LONGER TIME TO COME TO GRASP WITH THE TRUE SITUATION IN ANGOLA." (SIC)

4. MUHAMMED'S STATEMENT WENT ON TO LABEL A "SUCCESS" THE FACT THAT BOTH SIDES HAD SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS CONDEMNING SOUTH AFRICA. HE ALSO SAID MPLA UNDOUBTEDLY

VIEWS THE MEETING AS A SUCCESS BECAUSE THE COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE RECOGNIZED THE MPLA ARE THE "SIGNIFICANT" COUNTRIES IN AFRICA. "IT ONLY REQUIRES A LOOK AT THE MAP OF AFRICA TO APPRECIATE THIS FACT." MUHAMMED ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WERE STILL "A FEW COUNTRIES WHO MATTER" AND WHOSE STAND IS IMPORTANT WHO HAD NOT RECOGNIZED MPLA, BUT HE PREDICTED THEY WOULD ANNOUNCE THEIR RECOGNITION OF MPLA SHORTLY.

5. THE STATEMENT ALSO SAID MUHAMMED HAD MET WITH THE MPLA PRIME MINISTER WHO HAD BRIEFED HIM ON THE MILITARY SITUATION IN ANGOLA. MUHAMMED SAID THERE "NO DOUBT" THAT MPLA IS MAKING TREMENDOUS GAINS AND PRONOUNCED HIS SATISFACTION WITH DEVELOPMENTS.
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6. COMMENT: MODERATE TONE OF STATEMENT AND LACK OF VITUPERATIVE ATTACK ON U.S. IS IN MARKED CONTRAST TO FMG UTTERANCES IN WEEKS IMMEDIATELY PRIOR CONVENING OF OAU SUMMIT AND TO MUHAMMED'S SPEECH TO OAU LAST SUNDAY. IN THIS RESPECT IT IS GOOD NEWS FOR US, HOPEFULLY SIGNIFYING THAT FOR THE MOMENT AT LEAST, MUHAMMED HAS DECIDED EASE UP ON HIS PUBLIC CONDEMNATION U.S. ROLE IN ANGOLA.

7. IT IS VERY CLEAR THAT FMG IS ATTEMPTING BUT BEST FACE POSSIBLE ON SUMMIT'S OUTCOME AND OAU FAILURE RECOGNIZE MPLA AND ACCEPT NIGERIAN ADVICE. STATEMENT IS CALCULATED TO EASE LET DOWN OF NIGERIAN PUBLIC (AND OF AUDIENCES IN OTHER AFRICAN NATIONS) AFTER FMG HAD DONE SO MUCH, SO VOCALLY ON
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BEHALF ITS PRO-MPLA POSITION BEFORE SUMMIT.

8. IT MAY BE THAT NEW NIGERIAN LEADERS LEARNED A LESSON AT ADDIS: RHETORIC AND PUSHINESS ARE NOT ALWAYS BEST WAY WIN FOLLOWERS, ESPECIALLY IN FMG'S DRIVE CARVE OUT A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN AFRICA. AT SAME TIME, WE MAY BE WITNESSING ONLY A PAUSE WHILE MUHAMMED AND COMPANY REGROUP BEFORE ATTACKING AGAIN. MUHAMMED'S EXPLANATORY STATEMENT CLEARLY SIGNALS NIGERIA'S INTENTION TO CONTINUE PUSH FOR MPLA AND TO ADVISE THOSE AFRICAN STATES WHICH DON'T YET SEE THE WISDOM OF NIGERIAN POLICY THAT THEY REQUIRE ONLY ACCURATE INFORMATION TO BRING ABOUT A CHANGE IN ATTITUDE.

9. FOR THE MOMENT WE ARE RELIEVED THAT FMG APPEARS TO HAVE DECIDED REFRAIN FROM LAMBASTING US FURTHER IN PUBLIC. HOWEVER,

UNDERLING RESENTMENT OF OUR ROLE IN ANGOLA AND OUR LINKING
OF SOUTH AFRICAN WITHDRAWAL WITH THAT OF OTHERS;
SUSPICIONS OF MOBUTU AND ZAIRE; THE DEEP EMOTIONAL OPPOSITION
TO SOUTH AFRICA; AND FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES WITH U.S.
POLICY TOWARD SOUTHERN AFRICA GENERALLY AS ENUNCIATED IN MUHAMMED'S
SPEECH TO OAU, SEE LAGOS A-7, TO BE FORWARDED IN THIS

WEEKS'S CLASSIFIED POUCH) ARE SO BASIC THAT FMG
COULD RENEW ITS ATTACK ON THE U.S. AT ANY TIME. MUCH
WILL DEPEND ON THE OUTCOME OF THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE AND ON THE MOVES THE MAJOR PLAYERS IN
ANGOLA MAKE NOW.
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